

From: Patrick St. Jean
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

Hello,

I am writing you today in response to the public comment period on the proposed settlement. I am opposed to that settlement for various reasons, but one of the more important ones, that affects many businesses, is that the settlement doesn't ensure that Microsoft cannot use preferential licensing agreements to influence OEMs decisions to install software.

For example, I work for a large telecommunications firm that uses Windows for some of its internet needs. We have a site license with Microsoft for all of their products, but are completely unable to buy a server without purchasing another Windows license. This costs us many thousands of dollars a year. Whenever I've pressured hardware vendors to not include a license in the cost, they have refused, stating that their contract with Microsoft (signed in order to get preferential pricing) requires them to sell a license with every machine. This is bad for big business, but even worse for small ones. At least we have a large enough budget that it doesn't influence our purchasing decisions. I can't say the same for some smaller companies that I've worked for.

Please reconsider this settlement. The only one who will benefit from this is Microsoft. The consumers are going to continue to be taken for every dollar Microsoft can get until stronger protections, like the ones in the Posner Draft 18, are implemented.

Thank you for your time,
Patrick St. Jean

p.s. If you would like to contact me to verify that I am a real person, my contact info is on my web site. The URL is provided below.

- - -

Pat in Lewisville '97 XLH 883 (Rocinante) <http://www.pat-st-jean.com/stjeanp>
BS#140 AMA #628294 TMRA #32588 HOG #1027226 SPMC EKIII rides with me

<http://www.pat-st-jean.com/products.html> Software for paper money collectors

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: GnuPG v1.0.6 (GNU/Linux)

Comment: For info see <http://www.gnupg.org>

iEYEARECAAYFAjxPBR4ACgkQ2OW+UnZHD5Dz3ACfU6BA6SQXCkCNPdXM2aiboVie
aMQAoJKqsPMklHp51T/gQFX6jcB3sQf2
=bZHP

-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----